Rev. Jno. N. Wells - Cor Sec
Soc Prop. Primitive

Theo Seminary
New Albany Ind Nov 25th 1842

Dear Sir, your letter under date of 2nd Inst addressed to us in behalf of the Soc Prop Prim was duly received and laid before our society at their last meeting. The same Mail brought us also a copy of your Constitution & Bye Laws. These papers, you will allow us to say impress us very strongly in your favor. The apparent completeness of your organization the number and importance of your committees and the facilities we suppose you possess for prosecuting all branches of your inquiry would seem to render your society one of great interest and importance. With the wants of the world continually and in detail pressed upon your consideration - and no doubt with a correspondence rich & extensive, it would seem that membership in your body implies a constant meeting of the question. "Lord what wilt Thou have me to do?" We have long rejoiced dear brother in what we have known of your Association and are indeed happy that at length we are brought into correspondence with you - a correspondence from which we promise ourselves much pleasure and profit. Be assured that all the fraternal and christian interest manifested for us and our society - and Institution with which we are connected is most cordially reciprocated. - It was doubly gratifying that your letter was laid before us at our first meeting in the present session. It was at once a welcome and refreshing stimulus to increased diligence & zeal in our Heavenly Masters service. —

You ask us for items of information upon various topics. We most cheerfully comply with your request. And here we take occasion to say that we shall ever be happy to communicate with you touching the wants of the west, or any other matters pertaining to the objects of our Societies & the cause & glory of our Redeemer. —

The New Albany Theo Seminary, with which we are connected is in fact a reorganization of the Indiana Theo Seminary formerly located at South Hanover - and originally connected with the College at that place. —
It was removed to this city in 1840 and was chartered by the Legislature of Indiana at their last session under a new name. The Faculty consists as yet of but two Prof's — Rev John Mathews D.D. & James Wood D.D. The Synods of Indiana, Cincinnati, Illinois, Missouri and Tennessee have pledged themselves to sustain the Seminary, and have elected representatives in the Board of Trustees Directors. —
The number of Students now in attendance is eighteen, representing eight States of our union. Three more are in occasional attendance, whose literary course is not yet completed. — We hear also of a few others who are to join us during the present session. So that our probable number will be twenty five. Thus much dear brother concerning our Seminary to which we are warmly attached & from which we confidently hope will yet emanate extensive & salutary influences to the churches of our land. — We have, as you have already perceived, an association for Moral & Religious Inquiry, analogous to your own - but of course on a much smaller scale. We Meet Monthly for the purpose of attending to Essays, Addresses, Reports, and Devotional Exercises - with reference primarily to the cause of Missions, Foreign & Domestic.
One of our Number has avowed himself devoted to the foreign service, & nearly all have expressed themselves as entirely uncommitted in feeling as to the field of their labours & quite willing to go wherever the Providence of God may call them. —
At the same time we cannot but be sensible that the speedy and active occupancy of the western country by evangelical ministers is

assuming great & growing importance. The enemy is indeed "coming in like a flood". — Infidelity in various forms & Popery — perhaps more formidable adversary than any other, the cause of truth will here have to encounter, are making giant strides among our people —

We trust we are not insensible to the claims of the heathen, but situated as we are, in the principle city of Ky & in sight of the commercial capital of Ky & at the head of Southern navigation, where we can see the steady advance & the destructive tendency of these errors — threatening the overthrow of all our national institutions and the subversion of truth — the Ohio Valley presents strong and numerous claims upon our prayers, sympathies & personal efforts. —

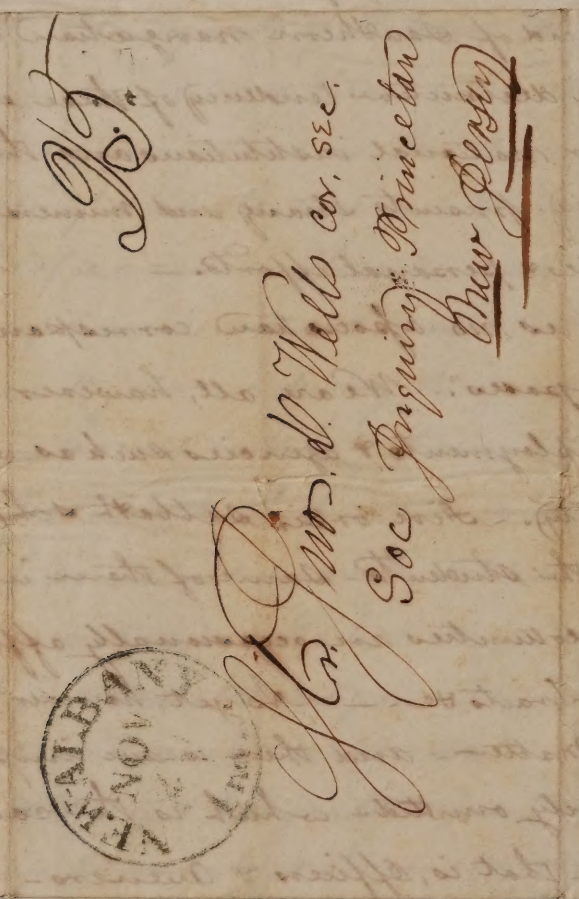
We have among us no association corresponding to yours for "Benevolent Purposes". We are all, however, more less engaged individually in employments & agencies such as we presume are the objects of that society. — Five or six Sabbath schools are sustained wholly or in part by the students — some of them in places of great destitution, and opportunities are occasionally afforded for the distribution of Bibles, Tracts &c — As yet, however, we do not, our whole duty in this Matter — and there is one important subject which we have entirely omitted — which is the condition of Boatmen — These — that is, Officers & Owners — Builders and Crews of Steam & other Boats — constitute a large proportion of our citizens, and their habits & spiritual wants will form a new & important field for enquiry & for labor — —

Many other points we hope to discuss in future correspondence with our brethren of your Society — —

We shall be happy to hear from them at all times and

upon any point of interest in the great cause of our common Lord.

We commend them to God and the word of his Grace — praying that he may establish them in the truth and prepare them in due season to labor faithfully & successfully in his vineyard below and to enjoy him forever above. —



In behalf of the Society of Inquiry in New Albany Theol Seminary. — With paternal affection I am

Your Brother in Christ. J. G. Strahan
Cor. Sec